

Montana Board of Public Education
 Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council
Treasure State Adviser

News on Issues in Preparation, Licensure and Professional Development of Elementary & Secondary Educators in Montana.

2500 Broadway, PO Box 200601, Helena, Montana 59620
 Phone: 406-444-6576
 E-mail: pdonovan@bpe.montana.edu

CSPAC

2003-2004 Membership

Chair:

Gloria Curdy, Library Media Specialist, Missoula

Vice-Chair:

Scott McCulloch, Teacher, Billings

Charla Bunker, Teacher, Great Falls

Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula

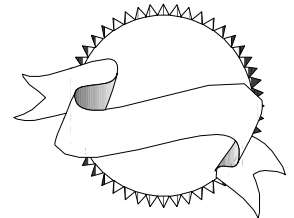
Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula

Dan Villa, School Trustee, Anaconda

Dr. George White, Higher Education, Billings

Introducing the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council, created by the 1987 legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The Council makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education regarding certification issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for Montana educators.



Advisory Council Members and Staff (from left to right): Front row – **Melodee Smith-Burreson**, Teacher, Target Range Elementary School Missoula; **Tana Haxton**, CSPAC Administrative Assistant; Chair **Gloria Curdy**, Library Media Specialist, Missoula; **Dan Villa**, School Trustee, Anaconda; Second row – **Peter Donovan**, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; **Dr. George White**, Dean of Education, Montana State University-Billings; Vice-Chair **Scott McCulloch**, Teacher, Billings; **Dr. Douglas Reisig**, Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary School District; **Steve Meloy**, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education. Not pictured: **Charla Bunker**, Teacher, Great Falls

A Note From the CSPAC Chair

Greetings Fellow Educators:

Monitoring educator certification, standards and practices for the Board of Public Education is an awesome task for our council. Add the complications involved in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also called the "No Child Left Behind Act" by the White House, and all our responsibilities multiply and blur.

The overshadowing presence of ESEA, like the ominous smoke that has blanketed much of our state during the recent fire season, is impossible to ignore. CSPAC has decided to focus its efforts in the coming year to identify both barriers and solutions to the challenges posed by ESEA related to teacher, administrator and specialist preparation and licensure in Montana. To this end, CSPAC decided to study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on ESEA matters by the next fiscal year.

The primary CSPAC goal for 2003-2004 will be to study and understand the elements of ESEA that affect certification standards and practices. From that investigative process, CSPAC will formulate analyses and recommendations for actions on certification issues, such as:

1. Education Professionalism
2. Alternative Certification Avenues
3. Monitoring Programs and Potential Opportunities
4. Retention/Recruitment/Preparation of Education Personnel

The CSPAC meets quarterly and we welcome your input and interest in our deliberations. Please contact the CSPAC office to request meeting agendas or to learn more about our research reports on topics ranging from teacher mentoring to studies on the supply and demand of teachers in Montana.

Sincerely,

Gloria Curdy

Chair, CSPAC

CSPAC Appoints Committee Chairs & Identifies Areas of Responsibility

The CSPAC utilizes a committee system to organize projects and to set priorities. Listed below are brief descriptions of the committees and their areas of responsibility:

Executive Committee, Gloria Curdy, Chair

Purpose: The Executive Committee organizes meeting agendas, runs the meetings and acts on behalf of the CSPAC when issues come up in the interim between meetings.

Areas of Responsibility: CSPAC Executive Committee, agendas, organizing and leading meetings.

Pre Professional Preparation and Development Committee, Dr. George White, Chair

Purpose: The PP&D Committee initiates studies and makes recommendations on pre-licensure training and education requirements for teachers, administrators and specialists.

Areas of Responsibility: Teacher Testing, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Native American Certification, Outcome assessment, Title II, Teacher preparation standards, Online degrees, National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Professional Development and Renewal Committee, Charla Bunker, Chair

Purpose: The PD&R Committee initiates studies and recommendations on licensure renewal training and education requirements for teachers, administrators and specialists.

Areas of responsibility: Mentoring, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title II, online degrees.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee, Dr. Douglas Reisig, Chair

Purpose: The L&E Committee initiates studies and makes recommendations in the areas of licenses and endorsements.

Areas of responsibility: Teacher testing, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, outcome assessments, Title II, online degrees.

Professional Ethics Committee, Scott McCulloch, Chair

Purpose: The PE Committee initiates studies and makes recommendations on ethical standards and professional practices on policies for denial, suspension and revocation of licenses.

Areas of responsibility: Teacher testing, hearing procedures.

Research Projects Oversight Committee, Dan Villa, Chair

Purpose: The RPO Committee develops procedures for the request, review and prioritization of research projects. The committee monitors the research fund budget, ongoing research projects and related follow-up activities.

Areas of Responsibility: Teacher testing, Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the CSPAC Assessment Study Group.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee, Melodee Smith-Burreson, Chair

Purpose: The Montana Commission on Teaching (MCT) addresses issues critical to Montana's teaching profession in accordance with the partnership agreement between CSPAC and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF).

Areas of Responsibility: MCT

Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics

Preamble

Education in Montana is a public endeavor. Every Montanan has a responsibility for the schooling of our young people, and the state has charged professional educators with the primary responsibility of providing a breadth and depth of educational opportunities.

The professional conduct of every educator affects attitudes toward the profession and toward education. Aware of the importance of maintaining the confidence of students, parents, colleagues and the public, Montana educators strive to sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct. While the freedom to learn and the freedom to teach are essential to education in a democracy, educators in Montana balance these freedoms with their own adherence to this ethical code.

The Professional Educator in Montana:

Makes the well-being of students the foundation of all decisions and actions.

- Protects students when their learning or well-being is threatened by the unsafe, incompetent, unethical, or illegal practice of any person.
- Provides educational services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the student.
- Safeguards the student's right to privacy by judiciously protecting confidential information.

Fulfills professional responsibilities with diligence and integrity.

- Enhances individual competence by increasing knowledge and skills.
- Exemplifies and fosters a philosophy of education which encourages a lifelong pursuit of learning.
- Contributes to the development and articulation of the profession's body of knowledge.
- Promotes professionalism by respecting the privacy and dignity of colleagues.
- Demands that conditions of employment are conducive to high-quality education.

Models the principles of citizenship in a democratic society.

- Respects the individual roles, rights, and responsibilities of the community; including parents, trustees, and colleagues.
- Assumes responsibility for individual actions.
- Protects the civil and human rights of students and colleagues.

Montana Commission on Teaching Awards Mentorship Institute Grants

Governor Marc Racicot originally created the Montana Commission on Teaching (MCT) in 1996. The MCT is one of 19 state partners of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future.

The commission's goal is to address issues critical to Montana's teaching profession and to make recommendations for progress. The current commission is made up of 13 members and is administered by the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council.

The Montana Commission on Teaching distributed a total of \$5,000 in grant funds to assist teams of educators and supervisors from seven school districts in Montana to attend a special Montana Mentor Institute that was held on August 7 and 8, 2003 at Montana State University-Bozeman. Funds for the grants were provided by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. The following schools/districts were recipients of the grants: Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula; East Valley Middle School, East Helena; Laurel Public Schools, Laurel; Chief Joseph Middle School, Bozeman; Eureka Public Schools, Eureka; Custer County School District, Miles City and Dawson County High School, Glendive.

The purpose of the institute was twofold: to promote the development of mentoring programs in schools as a strategy to enhance teacher

retention and quality; and to develop teachers as high quality teacher mentors. Grant recipients will provide the Montana Commission on Teaching with a follow-up report on the implementation of mentoring programs that were developed from involvement in the Montana Mentoring Institute.

The National Commission on Teaching and America's Future and the Montana Commission on Teaching support projects to create rewarding professional career paths that include mentored induction of novice teachers and recognition for accomplished teaching. Please contact the CSPAC office for additional information on the ongoing work of the Montana Commission on Teaching.

2003-2004 CSPAC Meeting Calendar

<i>October 2-3</i>	<i>U of M Missoula w/ Deans Council</i>	<i>Missoula</i>
<i>Jan. 29-30</i>	<i>Higher Education Complex</i>	<i>Helena</i>
<i>March 10-12</i>	<i>Higher Education Complex w/ BPE</i>	<i>Helena</i>
<i>July 15-16</i>	<i>Higher Education Complex</i>	<i>Helena</i>

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PO Box 200601
2500 Broadway
Helena, Montana 59620-0601

Phone (406) 444-6576
Fax (406) 444-0847
E-mail pdonovan@bpe.montana.edu.

Gloria Curdy, Chair
Scott McCulloch, Vice-Chair

Peter Donovan, Editor
Tana Haxton, Edit. Asst.

CSPAC Convenes Assessment Study Group

The CSPAC Assessment Study Group was formulated by the Certification, Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC), as a research project at the suggestion of Board of Public Education. The purpose of the study group was to bring together a group of individuals with expertise and/or interest in Montana's assessment system in order to frame the questions that need to be explored about Montana's future direction in assessment, research information, and reach points of consensus for recommendations to the Board and OPI regarding assessment issues. CSPAC was asked to conduct the study under the CSPAC research fund. Members of the Study Group were selected from various education stakeholders. The facilitator for the sessions was Bob Runkel, Director of Special Education, Office of Public Instruction.

The Study Group was assembled to consider the larger meaning of a Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) and also to place the local and state assessment issues within the context of the broader requirements and implications of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA). The study group is currently producing a report that will present the overall vision, mission, and purpose of the full MontCAS. Then they will address specific issues that the Study Group determines would benefit further consideration. The report will be presented to the Board of Public Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction in November.



How to Place Issues Before the Council

Educational organizations, agencies or individuals may make a request in writing for the Council to consider issues affecting the certification of teachers, administrators, or specialists in Montana. Certification issues include: teacher preparation; standards for certification; standards for professional practices and ethical conduct; and policies on suspension, revocation and denial of certificates.

All requests must include the following information:

- a. The name of the individual or organization submitting the request.
- b. A statement of the nature and extent of the issue or concern.
- c. A summary of the proposal or recommendation.
- d. A statement of the certification rules or policies, which would be affected if the proposal were implemented.
- e. A synopsis of the effects implementation would have on K-12 certification practices in Montana.
- f. A list of organizations, which support the proposal.

All requests must be received in the CSPAC office twenty (20) days prior to a Council meeting if the item is to be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Council. Please contact the CSPAC office to request a standardized form for placing issues before the Council.